



THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 4 OIF

5 JUNE 2003



TIP FROM DOWN RANGE:

Don't send any liquids down range, if it gets really not in the container the liquid is in, and it will, the liquid will expand and burst and the mail will get discarded. Only send powered Gatorade, cool-aide etc.

ANNIVERSARY:

July 3rd: 2 year anniversary of SPC Kenneth Reed and Shirin Caiola-Reed!!

DEPLOYMENT TIP:

LOST ID CARDS: Upon reporting the lost or stolen ID card to the local MP Station, the MPs will provide a memorandum acknowledging the report of the lost or stolen ID card. The sponsor will bring the memorandum from the MPs and the appropriate documentation as indicated below to their local ID Card issuing authorities: For Staff Sergeant and below (and their family members), a memorandum signed by the commander or designated representative.

For a Sergeant First Class and above (and their family members) there is no additional required documentation beyond the MP memorandum.

This is a new policy within the European Theater.

SGLI and DD93: Make sure your SGLI and DD93 are updated annually or when information changes. Changes include address change, married or divorced, new children, or change in amount of insurance. If you list a P.O. Box as the address for the next of kin you then must list detailed directions from the Post Office to your next of kin address.

TASK FORCE 2-6 IN:

Task Force Gator sponsored the first Neighborhood Advisory Council meeting for the neighborhoods of its sectors. Approximately 30 civic-minded Iraqi leaders, called "Mukhtars," from the four districts within the TF's area of responsibility met at the Baghdad Department of Engineering to learn how they could help the voices of the people within their neighborhoods be heard.

LTC James Boisselle, the Task Force Gator commander, briefly explained the democratic process to the Mukhtars and illustrated how the NACs would facilitate democracy within the sector, Baghdad, and Iraq. He then laid out who was eligible for election and charged the Mukhtars with the responsibility of setting up a time and place for holding their own neighborhood-level meetings so that specific, legitimate, representatives could be put in place. Company

commanders were assigned to attend the neighborhood-level meetings, not

to interfere, but to be on hand to answer any questions that the citizens might have.

The Mukhtars understood the idea of electing representatives to speak for their districts and were anxious to get a functioning council underway. They asked questions about district boundaries and LTC Boisselle ensured them district lines could be addressed in future meetings. He went on to state, "the important thing is that the number of representatives per district is proportional to the population living within." The Mukhtars were additionally concerned that the population count for each district was inaccurate but they were pacified with the knowledge that one of the Task Force's duties was to attain more accurate figures of who lives where. The numbers of representatives per district could be adjusted when more accurate figures were made available.

After hearing a few of the peoples' grievances it became clear that the Iraqis and the Americans have many common goals. Everyone in the room was concerned with security and agreed people firing weapons into the air at night were a problem. Electricity and water restoration, as well as salary repayment, were problems that the NAC would immediately address once representatives were elected.

Although former high-level Ba'ath Party members would be ineligible for election and all former Ba'athists would have to be investigated, seats within the NAC were open to people of all origin, creed, and economic status. One Iraqi Mukhtar recommended radio and television announcements be put out inform the public that anyone can be chosen to represent their district.

At the conclusion of the meeting both Americans and Iraqis thanked each other for taking the time to attend the meeting. Though there is still a lot of work ahead for both sides, establishing Neighborhood Advisory Committees is the first step towards democracy in Baghdad.





1LT Manning, C Co. XO, and 3rd platoon guard the first Neighborhood Advisory Council meeting as HHC Scouts stand guard in the streets. The NAC will organize neighborhoods and serve as a platform for electing representatives to air community problems. These representatives may



CPT Prior talks to Mukhtars and others interested in the Neighborhood Advisory Council.



HQ PLT takes a break from a long day of exhausting work



SGT Milan, 1SG Vasquez, and SFC Makovic [RIGHT to LEFT, brown T-shirts] serve breakfast to the Bulldogs.



C Co, 2plt, 2sqd, A Tm and Bradley crew pose before a daylight patrol.



2LT Lau, SGT James Dunn, and 1LT Hoffmann stand with kids. SGT Dunn holds a flower given to him by Ahmed



The crew of B 1-35, track 33 woke up before first light to begin work.

1-35 AR:

This week Bravo 1-35 Armor Company has moved from its home in Saddam's reviewing stand to a new place in the zoo park –closer to 40th ENG. The tankers, now subject to more mosquitoes and other insects that come with living outdoors, have taken up missions guarding a gas station, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and a blocking position at the edge of the Forward Operating Base (TF 2-6's living area). B 1-35 also provides security for a propane stand adjacent to the gas station for a few hours out of each day as a matter of necessity. The gas station and propane stand are so volatile and close to each other that soldiers need to be watchful of the people in both areas.

The 1-35 "Armadillos" primarily use their 70-ton tanks for static defenses; the behemoth tanks face their guns down roads leading in and out of the areas they guard. Smaller HMMWVs with mounted weapons provide faster mobility when it is needed, delivering reinforcements to any of the locations under 1-35's watch. The soldiers, some acting as dismounts for the first time, are using the same tactics and equipment as the infantry soldiers during this part of the deployment but they have the ability to call out the big guns of the Task Force if need be.



M1A1s dwarf regular cars as they roll alongside everyday traffic in downtown Baghdad.



SGT Jesse Robertson, the B 1-35 medic, sits atop a tank. Barbed wire keeps kids away from the vehicle



THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 4 OIF

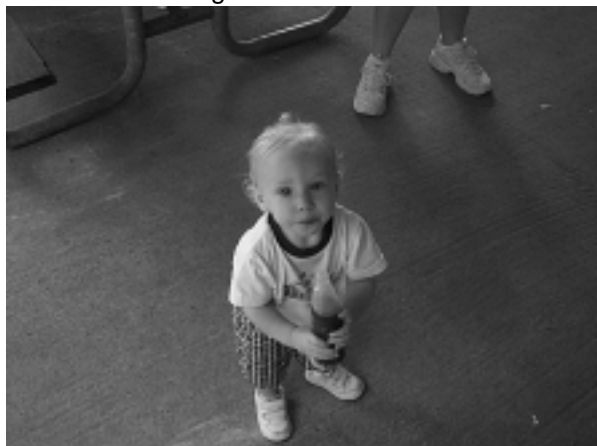
5 JUNE 2003



These are the shirts they made.

1-6 IN:

1-6 held an Ice Cream Social on Baumholder and had a good turnout. They also made father day cards to send down range.



THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 4 OIF

5 JUNE 2003



Chase Williams



Sandy Ewers and Jen Magsig